SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, above line 1, insert: --Priority Claim and Cross Reference

--The present application is a 35 U.S.C. 371 national stage filing of PCT/EP2004/053148 filed 29 November 2004, which claims benefit of European patent application No. 03104450.6 filed 28 November 2003.--

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Field of the Invention--

On page 1, above line 8, insert--Background of the Invention--

On page 2, above line 20, insert--Summary of the Invention--

On page 3, delete lines 5-35.

On page 4, delete lines 1-35.

On page 5, delete lines 1 and 2.

On page 5, above line 23, add the following paragraph:

--The invention also provides a method, wherein a loop-conduit-comprising spray ring arranged in a loop-line is provided gravitationally higher than the water bath, and wherein the wetting fluid is circulated through the spray ring along a loop-line flow direction by feeding the wetting fluid into the loop conduit in an inlet flow direction having a component that is tangential to the loop-line flow direction of the wetting fluid through the loop conduit, wherein at the same time the wetting fluid is sprayed out of the loop conduit onto the char and/or slag in the water bath.--

On page 6, above line 4, please insert--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 6, above line 15, please insert--Detailed Description of Embodiments--

On page 6, above line 17, please add the following paragraphs:

--A spray ring is provided for wetting char and/or slag in a water bath with a wetting fluid, the spray ring comprising a loop conduit arranged in a loop-line, which loop

conduit is at an inlet point provided with an inlet for feeding the wetting fluid into the loop conduit in an inlet flow direction, and with a plurality of outlet openings for spraying the wetting fluid out of the loop conduit.

The spray ring can be arranged in a reactor vessel comprising a reaction area and, disposed gravitationally lower than the reaction area, a slag water bath for holding water and receiving char and/or slag from the reaction area, whereby the spray ring is preferably provided gravitationally lower than the reaction area.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the loop conduit forms a peripheral ambit around an encompassed area and whereby the outlet openings are directed such that the outlet flow direction of the wetting fluid has a component directed inwardly towards the encompassed area. An advantage of this embodiment is that it does not require a dip tube.

In an embodiment of the invention, the conduit forming the loop conduit has an internal cross sectional contour in a plane perpendicular to the loop-line flow direction that is free from a convex section. Herewith, unnecessary flow restriction inside the loop conduit is avoided.

In an embodiment of the invention, one or more of the spray ring's outlet openings are provided with a connecting flange for holding flange-connectable nozzles. Unlike thread-connectable nozzles, flange-connectable nozzles are easily replaceable when corroded. When the flanges are for instance bolted together, the connecting bolts can be cut and replaced when corrosion prevents normal unbolting.

It is remarked that such flange connectable nozzles can also advantageously be provided on a spray ring known from the prior art not that do not have the tangential component in the inlet flow direction relative to the loop-line flow direction. --

On page 12, after line 11, add the following paragraphs:

-- US patent 4,828,578 describes a quench ring encircling a constricted throat formed in a reaction chamber floor. The quench ring is situated in the direct vicinity of an upper rim of a cylindrical dip tube. The quench ring has an internal water circulating channel and has outlet openings located inside the dip tube to direct streams of water outwardly against the inner surface of the dip tube. The diameter of the constricted throat is

smaller than that of the quench ring and the dip tube, and therefore slag particles will free fall trough the quench ring.

It is thus remarked that the quench ring of US patent 4,828,578 is not a spray ring arranged to wet char and/or slag in a water bath, but rather a distribution ring to distribute water to cool the dip tube. As a consequence, the water is not sprayed into the water bath but instead it drips down along the dip tube inner wall. Moreover, the quench ring of US patent 4,828,578 has an internal smaller channel in the form of an internal gutter that is always full of water. The internal smaller channel is associated with a convex protruburant section inside the quench ring.

This poses a problem when particle laden water is circulated, as the internal flow opening through the quench channel is unnecessarily restricted.--

On page 13, above line 1, insert:--We claim:--